

THE BELLS OF THE SEA



I heard one night the bells of the sea
 Tolling the sailor's destiny:
 Sighing, falling
 Dying, calling
 Till they broke with the surge
 In a wailing dirge
 On a wild and wave-washed lea—

Ah, the bells of the sea
 How they called to me
 With an infinite misery!

I heard one night the toll of the bells
 As they rose and rang the wild sea's knells:
 Throbbing, leaping
 Sobbing, weeping
 Till they sank with a sigh
 Like those that lie
 In the grave of the long green swells.

Ah, the bells of the deep
 How they stole my sleep
 Mid the storm's fantastic spells!

And I could not rest for the wailing notes
 Of those deep tongues in those deep throats:
 Breaking, booming,
 Quaking, glooming,
 Till I paced the floor—
 Till I sought the shore
 With the men in the oil-skin coats:

Ah, the bells of doom,
 How they rang of the tomb
 And the deep green grave of the boats!

